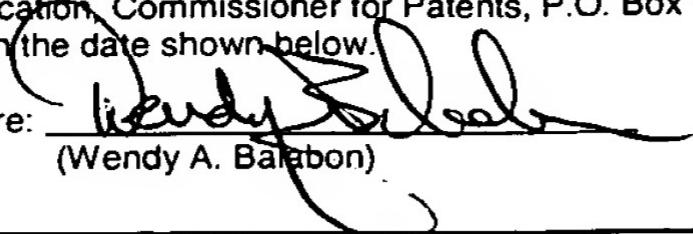


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to Examiner A.A. Mathews at 703-872-9306, as well as deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail EV 223960240US, in a prepaid envelope addressed to: MS Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: March 30, 2004 Signature:   
(Wendy A. Balabon)

Docket No.: 65446-0082  
(PATENT)



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Paul T. Ryan et al.

Application No.: 09/913,425

Art Unit: 2851

Filed: February 17, 2000

Examiner: A. A. Mathews

For: AN AUTOMATED SYSTEM FOR EXCISING  
PROTEINS FROM TWO-DIMENSIONAL  
ELECTROPHORESIS GELS

### **AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

### **INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated September 30, 2003 (Paper No. 20030920), please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 11 of this paper.

04/01/2004 FMETEK11 00000107 180013 09913425

01 FC:2202 72.00 DA  
02 FC:2201 215.00 DA